

This Week in 4th Infantry Division History

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4th Inf. Div. museum

8-14 April

WWI: 1918

Training continued on the rifle range at Camp Greene, N.C. with their Springfield rifles. Anyone who scored at least 198 on the 400-yard range was given the opportunity to fire on the 500- and 600-yard ranges. Additional training was done on the bayonet course. Schools of all kinds were in progress taught primarily by British and French instructors. Long hours devoted to drill and road marches became more frequent. Length-of-road marches gradually increased from three miles to 12 miles with a full pack. By this time the Division was up to strength in the new Tables of Organization [approx. 31,000].

WWII: 1945

On April 8-9 the Division conducted mopping up operations throughout their sector along the Tauber River, capturing numerous German prisoners of war. For the rest of the week the Division continued to attack to the southeast. On April 11-12 the Division encountered stubborn enemy resistance from artillery, small arms, and AAA guns. Greatest resistance was encountered by 12th Infantry and the 22nd Infantry. Late on April 12, the 12th Inf. crossed the Tauber River occupying the towns of Creglinger, Waldmann and Sechselbach. On April 13 the Division secured the objective line running

from Freudenbach to Flaufelden. On the 14th, the Division was able to move four to five kilometers southeast in the direction of Rothenburg along the entire Division front.

Vietnam

1967 Operation Francis Marion began with the Division's combat teams pulling back from the Cambodian border and establishing a line of bases south along Highway 19 and down into the Ia Drang River valley. 2nd Brigade returned to The Oasis (base camp approx 24 km. south-southwest of Pleiku) and the 1st Bde. moved to Jackson Hole (LZ Jackson Hole approximately 20 km. north-northwest of The Oasis.)

1968 Company sized patrols continued to find evidence of an increasing buildup of North Vietnamese forces in the Polei Kleng area of Kontum Province. Small ambushes and sniper fire harassed the patrols. Fire bases established in the area were continuing to receive probing attacks of mortars, rockets, and small arms. On April 13 a civic action team from DISCOM was ambushed resulting in two U.S. wounded in action.

1969 Operation Hines, which last from Feb. 1 to April 30 specified that the 1st Bde. would become a mobile force prepared to conduct operations anywhere within the Division's area of operations or within II Corps Tactical Zone.

1970 4th Infantry Division forces that still remained in Pleiku Province were preparing to relocate east. As part of the "Vietnamization" plan, the province and Camp Enari were to be turned over to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) 22nd Division. Camp Radcliff (the Division's new base camp) came under mortar attack on

April 13. The 1st and 2nd Brigades, operating north of the Vinh Thanh Valley, had sporadic contact with the enemy.

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Armor

An armored personnel carrier with the 2-8 Infantry regiment on operations in April 1970.

The unit is now standing down at Camp Redcliff, Vietnam, prior to redeployment back to the United States.

(photo courtesy of 4th Inf. Div. museum)

